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USDA CIVIL SERVICE NEWS

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DALLAS, TEXAS

Here Comes The Flag!

Here comes the Flag! Cheer it!
So valley and crag shall hear
it!

Fathers shall bless it--
Children caress it!
All shall maintain it--
No one shall stain it!

Cheers for the sailors that
fought on the wave for it!
Cheers for the soldiers that
always were brave for it!
Tears for the men that went
down to the grave for it!
Here comes the Flag!

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Braswell Visits

Mr. Marcus Braswell, Deputy Administrator, PMA, and former Assistant FHA Administrator, was a recent visitor from Washington. His visit was welcomed by both local PMA and FHA personnel.

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C.S.C. to Check

A "spot check" survey by the Civil Service Commission will shortly get underway to determine how many civil service employees are wrongly classified on the job. About 1 out of every 8 jobs will be studied. Previous surveys have shown this to be a worthwhile project.

Two PMA Employees Share Cash Award

George R. Shadwick and Herman N. Mindlin, PMA employees, were recently given a joint award for converting a tabulating problem relating to calculated weighted averages for wheat from comptometer to IBM machines. In addition to the award certificates they shared a cash award of \$125.00 which reflects a considerable amount in savings to the Federal Government for their suggestion.

A recent report shows that in number of employee suggestions accepted FHA leads other agencies in the Department; PMA leads in savings.

Civil Service Catechism

In answer to many requests for more information on the Civil Service Retirement System the following "question-and-answer-catechism" is printed. For the next few issues of USDA News it will be a regular feature. Send in any question puzzling you and perhaps the editor will be able to dig up the answer.

Q. What is the Civil Service Retirement System?

A. In brief, it is the Federal employee's "social security", although many years older than the present Social Security System, and completely separate from it.

Q. What is the Civil Service Retirement Fund?

A. It is an accumulation of money held in trust by the U.S. Treasury for the purpose of paying annuity, refund, and death benefits to those entitled to them under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Q. Where does the money come from?

A. a) From deductions taken from employees salaries, b) from appropriations made by the Fed-

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CIVIL SERVICE CATECHISM... (Contin'd from P. 1)

eral Government, and c) from interest earned on the first two sources through investment in Government securities.

Q. How much is deducted from salaries of members?
 A. 6 per cent from regular salary earnings.

Q. Is membership in the Federal Civil Service Retirement System optional?
 A. No, each employee automatically becomes a member except in some cases such as members of Congress and certain other employee categories.

Q. Does membership automatically place one in the regular competitive civil service?
 A. No.

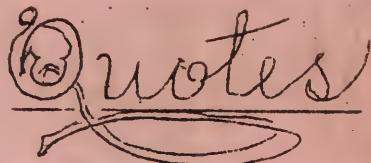
Q. Are persons in the military services members?
 Not because of such service. However, a Government employee under civil service entering the armed forces retains his membership but, since he is placed on IWOP or furlough status from his agency, no deductions are taken from his military pay.

Q. May an employee deposit any other money other than the standard deductions in the fund?
 A. Yes; he may make deposits to cover past service during which no deductions were made; he may also make additional payments known as "voluntary contributions", to provide for a larger annuity.

Q. How is the Government's appropriation made?
 A. Annually, by Congressional action, on the basis of recommendations made by the Civil Service Commission. (At present writing the appropriation has been cut out of the bill sent to the Congress, but since it can always be restored by amendment, or supplementary appropriation, this is no cause for concern save as an indication of a trend, or the setting of a precedent, which, if continued, could weaken the retirement fund until actuarially unsound.)

Q. Is deposit required to obtain credit for periods of service for which no deductions were taken?
 A. Deposit is required if the employee is to receive the full annuity amount based on his total service. He receives credit for full TIME in any case but without the deposit his annuity payment will be reduced by one tenth of the unpaid amount.

(The question of deposits and redeposits will be pursued at greater length in the next issue)


 Quotes

"Let the people who are supporting the Department of Agriculture--that is, all of us--know what contributions the Department is making to the life of each of us--not only to the farmers. Get the story across by having every employee of the Department know this so well that he will tell his neighbors enthusiastically." - Frank M. Malone, public relations specialist, speaking in USDA Leadership Institute.

"That name will forever be pronounced with affectionate gratitude by everyone in whose breast there shall arise an aspiration for human rights and liberty!" -- Daniel Webster, in speech honoring George Washington, year 1882.

MOTHER OF BERNICE FRICKE
PASSES AWAY.

The editor, along with many others who knew her, was saddened at the death of the mother of Mrs. Bernice Fricke, FIA Commodity Office employee. "Mamma Dyess" as she was affectionately known, lived a full and active life almost to the final day of her life. A true Christian Lady, she leaves the world a better, brighter place because of the good she did, the sunshine she brought into others' lives.

Every man is an influence for good or for evil--whether he intends to be or not. A "blank" he cannot be.

The USDA Club News is published monthly at 912 South Ervay, Fifth floor, Lowich Building. Send all news contributions to that address, or telephone the editor, ST-5611, extension 2044. Want-ads are welcome but please keep 'em brief!

James L. (Jimmy) Hyles,
EDITOR.

DILLARD B. LASSETER RESIGNS

Mr. Dillard B. Lasseter Farmers Home Administrator, has announced his resignation, effective July 1 from a post he has filled with ability and distinction. His outstanding leadership has made it possible for FHA to earn a high record of service and accomplishment to the cause of helping the farmer help himself. This record will serve both as a goal and a challenge to his successor.

The News extends best wishes to Mr. Lasseter in any future fields of endeavor he chooses to enter.

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SECRETARY BENSON VISITS TEXAS FOR DROUTH "LOOK-SEE"

USDA Secretary Benson, on a quick sweep around the drouth area, says he will recommend appropriate measures to the Congress, and will mobilize USDA resources to alleviate the distress. His visit brought new hope to hard-hit Texas ranchers.

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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER PROPOSES TEXAN AS FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATOR

President Eisenhower has nominated Robert M. Mac Leaish, Texas farm leader as his choice to head Farmers Home Administration, replacing Dillard B. Lasseter. Mr. Mac Leaish is vice president of Sugar-Tex Corporation, McAllen, Texas, which handles various agricultural by-products. During World War II he served with WFA, and various other boards in an advisory capacity. Also experienced in farm co-ops.

Did You Know...

...That the sun is about a hundred million times as large as the moon?

...That the bubonic plague--the "black death" of the Middle Ages, killed over 60,000,000 people in the fourteenth century, and according to medical historians, came nearer than any other disease to exterminating the human race?

...That the man who said that the reason God created man first was probably because He didn't want any advice from Eve on how to do the job wasn't married?

...That knowing these important facts will help make you better informed and therefore a more valuable employee to USDA...otherwise we wouldn't dare bore you with 'em?

MISS EUDORA COLEMAN AND WILLARD HODGES ARE WED

Keeping their secret well, Miss Eudora E. Coleman and Willard L. Hodges, FHA Area Finance employees, brought an office romance to culmination Saturday, June 20 when they repeated wedding vows in Dickerson Chapel of First Methodist Church, with Rev. Robert Goodrich reading the ceremony. The bride, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Coleman of Jonesville, is secretary to Finance Manager Orr N. Spung. Mr. Hodges, who will be at home with his bride at 3104 Fondren Drive after a honeymoon trip to Houston and Galveston, is an employee of the Fiscal Division. The editor joins with their host of friends in wishing them a wonderful voyage on the sea of matrimony.

SECRETARY BENSON GAINS BROAD POWERS TO REORGANIZE STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Congressional approval has been given to USDA Secretary Benson's request for authority to reorganize the Agriculture Department into whatever pattern he feels best for overall efficiency and economy commensurate with his expressed goal to make the Department more functional and responsive to regional needs. Any projected changes envisions Congressional briefin-

DID YOU GET YOUR DEALER DISCOUNT LISTING?

If you did not receive your official USDA dealer discount list which was distributed a few weeks ago you may have one sent you by calling Mr. Russell A. Vernon, Chairman Employee Welfare Committee, extension 2264. YOUR ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THIS CHANGE: Gasoline and oil discounts are effective only at the Harwood and McKinney location of the B. F. Goodrich Co. Their Oak Cliff store cannot supply these items.

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TWO POPULAR F-H-A EMPLOYEES TO RESIGN.

Mrs. Helen Quisenberry and Mrs. Rowena Fulton, known to their co-workers as two of the most accommodating, hardworking, attractive, and efficient employees in FHA Area Finance Office, have announced their intentions to devote full time to being housewives, their resignations effective June 30.

Rowena entered the Department in December, 1943, with ECFL and came to FHA in the spring of '47 as one of ECFL's nicest assets in their merger with FHA.

Helen's "EO Date was in September, 1942, with FHA C&RM Section where she has remained. During those plus-10 years she has earned an Excellent rating and Member of the Month Award among other things, held numerous offices in the NFFE, Credit Union, and USDA Club. At present she is co-editor of the NFFE "Voice", Secretary-Treasurer of NFFE, and a member of USDA's Correlation & Public Service Committee.

Their many friends are a bit skeptical about Rowena and Helen "settling down" to a humdrum housewife role after their active office routine, but wish them the best of luck. The office won't be as bright after they leave.

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FORMER USDA MEMBER NOW A NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST...

Mr. A. B. Jolley, longtime Dallas County Agricultural Agent, is now a full-fledged newspaper columnist, writing on farm topics several times weekly in the Dallas Times Herald. He recently resigned his Extension Service position to take the job of agricultural Director for the Times Herald, and its radio and TV stations. Mr. Jolley is one person who really lives up to his name.

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The editor regrets to report the death of the brother of Winfield W. Jernigan, FHA Finance Office, in Little Rock Arkansas, after a period of illness. Mr. Jernigan himself just recently returned to work after being absent because of a head injury.

Brain Teasers.

On a bookshelf two books stand side by side in proper order. Each volume is two inches thick from cover to cover, and each cover is an eighth of an inch thick. How far would a bookworm have to bore in a straight line in order to penetrate from the first page of volume one to the last page of volume two?

(See answer below)

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With a slight change in the spelling what two words express Marriage and Divorce?

(Bottom of page, please)

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PLENTIFUL

FOODS...

With high milk production expected to continue for sometime all market outlets are being utilized. Ice cream is proving one such major outlet and a welcome one for summer....Melons, despite drouth conditions in some areas are hitting southwest markets at a good rate. Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas planted 40,000 more acres this year....Potatoes should be good buys during July; with production 20 % greater than last year. Frying size chickens, cabbages, onions, vegetable fats also abundant.

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ANSWERS TO BRAIN-TEASERS:

1. Since the first and last pages of the two books are in the middle next to each other, the bookworm would need only to bore a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, through the two inside covers...

2. United and Untied are the two words.